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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SERVICES NPL SITE
GRIFFITH, INDIANA
AS OF June 25, 1990

SITE HISTORY

The American Chemical Services NPL site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1984. The ACS site contains a currently operating facility which accepts hazardous materials, primarily spent solvents, for distillation and eventual resale. The operating facility, operates under an "interim status" permit issued under the RCRA program and is seeking a full operating permit under RCRA. The ACS site is composed of three landfilled areas: the "on-site containment area"; the "off-site containment area"; and the city of Griffith municipal landfill. The two containment areas contain numerous buried drums and sludges from ACS operations from 1955 until 1975. The city of Griffith landfill was used by ACS for disposal of various hazardous substances. Other areas at the site include the Kapica Drum area (located outside the operating portion of the facility) and a buried still bottoms pond (located inside the operating facility). Kapica Drum encompasses approximately two acres and formerly housed a drum reclaiming operation. A consent order to perform a RI/FS was signed by approximately 150 former customers of ACS as potentially responsible parties (PRPs) on June 28, 1988. Site work began in late June 1989. The USEPA recently issued a complaint against ACS, which resulted in a Consent Decree ordering ACS to either comply with RCRA financial assurance regulations by early September 1990, or close the facility.

CURRENT CLEANUP STATUS

Phase I of the RI was completed in early December 1989, with the submittal of technical memoranda to USEPA by the PRPs contractor. Phase I results showed highly contaminated soils in the Kapica Drum area, highly contaminated groundwater underlying most areas of the site, and large volumes of hazardous waste materials within the on-site and off-site containment areas. Phase II of the RI is near completion at the present time. Phase II concentrated on determining the extent of groundwater contamination, sampling of residential wells, delineating the volume of highly toxic hazardous substances in the waste burial areas (e.g., PCBs), delineating site wetlands, delineating sediment and surface water contamination, and the extent of waste burial.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION

Large tracts of wetlands border the site to the west, southwest, north, and east. Sediment samples have been taken to assess the impact the site has had on these areas. Groundwater is heavily contaminated with benzene, xylene and toluene, lesser concentrated substances include methylene chloride, various semi-volatile compounds and trace PCBs near one source area. Groundwater appears to discharge to nearby wetland areas but the impact of this discharge is not yet known, due to the unavailability of data. A lower aquifer may also be impacted, however, no data is yet available. Residences near the site may be affected by contaminated groundwater.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

The RI report is due to USEPA September 7, 1990. The FS report is due to USEPA by mid-July 1991. A Record of Decision has been scheduled for the end of June 1992. All dates are currently projected and do not account for unforeseen site complexities.

U.S. EPA REGION V

Office of Superfund
TELEFAX COMMUNICATION



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MESSAGE: ACS site Summary

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